

11-17-2009

# The Hilltop 11-17-2009

Hilltop Staff

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## Recommended Citation

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## WEATHER

59  
45  
Tomorrow:  
58  
51

Established  
1924

## Tuesday's Notebook

## BREAKING NEWS

ACCORDING TO CNN, THE BODY OF 5-YEAR-OLD SHANIYA DAVIS WAS DISCOVERED ON MONDAY AFTER SHE WAS REPORTED MISSING LAST WEEK.

## METRO

READ ABOUT THE MENTORING PROGRAM MICHELLE OBAMA HAS INTRODUCED FOR FEMALE YOUTH.

## LIFE &amp; STYLE

WHEN TRAVELING TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW CULTURAL ETIQUETTE. FIND OUT MORE.

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO. 55

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

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## Students Stand Up to Violence

New Jersey Club hosts panel to discuss gang violence in community

BY CHELSEA BATTLE  
Contributing Writer

The New Jersey Club began their week with a panel discussion on gang violence. The panel included two gang members from the "Rollin 60s Crips" and four men representing a mentoring program called "Respect Inc." The goal of the program was not only to raise awareness, but also to offer a different perspective on gang life.

Tierra White, junior marketing major and social activities chair for the New Jersey Club, was the host for the night. According to White, there are 731,000 active gang members across the country. The club decided to put on the event after recognizing how detrimental gang violence is to the American society.

"We did it because gang violence plagues the U.S. and it's a very dangerous issue. But, there are also many myths about gangs that we wanted to dispel as well," White said.

"Respect Inc." is a men-

toring program based out of Essex County in New Jersey. The goal of the program is to encourage gang prevention, lower high school dropout rates and mentor young men and women who are currently in gangs.

Many of the mentors in "Respect Inc." have either been in gangs or affiliated with gangs at some point in their lives. Because of this, and the experiences they've had, they feel that gang prevention is not a matter of offering ultimatums or even immediate solutions, but offering options and teaching members life skills.

"You have to give them options. You have to have an active role in their lives. You can't talk them out of being in gangs, but you can talk them out of a lot of situations that may not be the best thing," said CEO and President of "Respect Inc." Alton Calloway.

"It's not about getting out, because a lot of times you can't. But there are other options and ways to make money that are legal and for a lot of them at the end of the day, that



Sean Robinson - Staff Photographer

The New Jersey Club hosted a panel on Monday evening, highlighting the effects of gang violence in the black community.

what it's about-making money," Calloway said.

G-Black, a member of the "Rollin 60s Crips," was not a traditional example of how a man becomes involved in gangs. He came from a good home and

said that his initiation into the gang world was a direct result of hanging out with the wrong crowd.

> See **GANGS**, page 3

## 'Angels' Bring Treats to HU

BY CHELSEA BATTLE  
Contributing Writer

Many college students struggle to afford groceries every month, but because of an organization called Angel Food Ministries, they no longer have to worry. Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit organization that sells and distributes food packages nationwide for half the price of the average grocery store.

With no income qualifications, applications or minimums, anyone can apply for their services including college students.

Angel Food Ministries distributes "restaurant grade" food for purchase at local churches and host sites for more than 500,000 families in more than 30 states. The organization's services can be particularly useful to college students, because they provide different menus and packages for purchase every month, totaling \$30 per box with a retail price between \$60 and \$78.

> See **ANGELS**, page 3



Sean Robinson - Staff Photographer

The HU greenhouse, located in the Biology building, is being upgraded with state-of-the-art equipment. It is scheduled to open within a month.

## Greenhouse Gets Improvement

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN  
Staff Writer

Adding color to the greenhouse, the Howard University community can look forward to a state-of-the-art greenhouse in the Ernest E. Just Hall Biology building within a month.

The 7,500-square foot greenhouse built in 1954 is one of the largest greenhouses in Washington, D.C., according to chairman of the Greenhouse Committee Hemayet Ullah, Ph.D.

The project of refurbishing the greenhouse began in March 2008 and was set to be completed the same year. Ullah said the new heating system for the entire biology building deterred reconstruction. Michael Harris, assistant of

the facilities, said the project is 80 percent complete.

The environmental climate control system is one of the many new installations. "At times it would be too hot or too cold, which is not always good for the plants," Ullah said. "Now with the climate control system, professors can set temperatures for different rooms."

Ullah also said the process of extracting asbestos from the greenhouse took a long time, but now the roof and glass are in the process of being installed.

"It does not specifically address Howard University's sustainability efforts," Harris said. "But with better climate controls, it will be more efficient."

> See **GREEN**, page 2

## Bank Failures on Rise, Concerns HU Students

BY EMILY GILLYLEN  
Contributing Writer

Student in Howard's School of Business are becoming even more concerned with the job market, considering the vast amount of bank failures, which are still on the rise.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) reported five more bank closings on Monday, bringing the number of 2009 bank closings to 120 — a fiscal all-time high.

"While private equity firms and large banks can afford to buy out failing banks, they can't put trust in the confidence of depositors in a relapse economy," said Zachery Scott, a junior finance and economics major from New Orleans.

In 2008, 25 banks closed and only three banks failed in 2007.

"The number of banks on the FDIC's confidential "problem list" jumped to 416 at the end of June from 305 in the first quarter; that's the most since June 1994," reported *Time Magazine*.

About 13 percent of banks on the list generally end up failing, according to the FDIC. The banks, which were once on the FDIC's "problem list" that recently joined the FDIC's "failed bank list," include: Gateway Bank of St. Louis; Home Federal Savings Bank, based in Detroit; United Security Bank, of Sparta, Ga.; and United Commercial Bank, in San Francisco, Calif.

The assets and deposits of each of these institutions were

assumed by multiple agencies. United Security Bank's assets and deposits have been assumed by Ameris Bank, based in Moultrie, Ga.

Meanwhile, the New Orleans-based, Liberty Bank and Trust Co., has purchased the assets and deposits of Home Federal Savings and the assets of Gateway Bank have been procured by the Central Bank of Kansas City. The FDIC arranged each of these agreements.

"In turn, the banking system is evolving into a more open system. This begins disclosure of internal information and creates transparency for the banks investment plans for its customer's investment dollars."

> See **BANKS**, page 4



## Moment

of  
Clarity

Cloak Of Excellence



BY ANDREW JONES  
Contributing Columnist

Well folks, we have made it to the last Moment of Clarity for the semester. As we prepare for the examination and holiday season, I hope everyone takes time to reflect on the issues that have been discussed and the solutions that have been proposed by this column over the last few months. What I have offered is my opinion, the truth from my perspective and suggestions based on my experience. I hope that I have provoked thought, discussion and action, and will hopefully continue to do so in the upcoming semester.

What also needs to be provoked, for the good of our university and community, is a spirit of excellence. Faculty, staff and especially students need to vacate the margins of mediocrity and engage themselves actively in the pursuit of absolute excellence. It is only by pursuing relevant excellence that we can inspire ourselves and others, and build confidence that cannot be shaken by the actions of naysayers.

Faculty, we understand that you are relatively underpaid and face institutional challenges that your colleagues at other schools couldn't fathom. However, you have been brought here to Howard for such a time as this. Rededicate yourself to the students in your classrooms; impacting just one can and will change the world. Evaluate your teaching methods; are you more concerned with education or efficiency? If your students fail to learn the material, take it as a challenge to find a new way to present the information for thirsty minds. Teaching is your career, passion and calling; we need you to stimulate our intellect, not assembly-line process us into graduates.

Staff, you too are underpaid and oftentimes overworked. Budget and administrative issues have stretched departments to capacity, serving more and more students with increased expectations. Let this challenge then be your rallying cry. You have invested your career and daily life into the success of this institution; do not waste that investment because the going got tough. Every day you should put your all into your work, because this is your life that you are spending and our lives that you are affecting. Your reward may not always come at the end of a pay period, or in the tone of a student with an unresolved problem, but it will come.

Students, I can not say enough about the responsibility that we have. It's not because of the legacy of Howard from the past, or the race that you theoretically represent. Your responsibility is to live out your destiny to the absolute fullest, wasting no time tarrying in the affairs of the average. You owe it to yourself; you will have to look yourself in the mirror at the end of every day, knowing whether or not that day was wasted in life's grand scheme.

Cloak yourself completely in achievement, with excellence covering everything you are, everything you do, everything you touch. Let this be Howard's collective resolve as we finish off this semester and move on to the next one.

Andrew Jones is a senior legal communications major. Read more of his columns on thehilltopline.com

## 'Green'house is the New Howard



The Greenhouse is 80 percent complete; as of now the roofing and glass are in the process of being added to the house.

Continued from FRONT, GREEN

A negative air pressure machine will also be installed. This will prevent pollen from escaping the room or getting on students and professors' clothing. The greenhouse may not help with Howard's yearly green report card, but it is environmental friendly. Energy-efficient light bulbs were installed as well as a water pump that recycles the water used to feed the plants.

According to Ullah, the water will remain in a big container and pumped into the plants. When it is time to dispose of the water, it will be treated first. Ullah also hopes to have a gutter system to collect the rainwater, known as rainwater recycling, as a means of conserving electricity and energy.

Along with rebuilding the greenhouse, some plants were lost in the process. As a result, the Botanical Garden has donated plants

to help restore the collection.

"I went to the greenhouse before it began renovation twice," said Adaeze Onwuzurike, a sophomore biology major. "It was dark and stuffy, and I was just scared to touch anything like the plants." Onwuzurike said after renovations she would go back to the greenhouse for independent research. "The plants are diverse, but right now it is too dark to do anything there."

An exhibition room where Ullah described as the "gem of the greenhouse," seats 75-100 people. Within in this room, students can perform presentations, plant-based seminars and plant exhibitions. A "live wall" will host different arrays of plants from temperate, tropical and desert climates to bring color to the greenhouse, said Ullah.

"This is, and will become after renovations, a unique research facility," Ullah said.

## For Some Religion Unifies, Separates

BY AURORA ELLIS  
Contributing Writer

Choice is the main factor. In the center of the nation's capital, Howard University students represent many different religious backgrounds, yet the question of whether religion creates unity or separation still remains a great debate at the Mecca.

Religion in America has often been a contentious issue, as it is often intertwined with political and social concerns making religion a complex topic to address. Modern controversies around issues such as marriage, abortion and stem-cell research frequently spring from differences in religious and ethical outlooks.

The Rev. Clement M. Aapengnuo, a Catholic priest from Northern Ghana and a Ph.D. student at George Mason University's Institute of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, said religion has the potential to both unify and divide people, but its main purpose is to unify.

"Religion is the human fascination with a tremendous mystery," he said.

Religions also place a great emphasis on choice, which means

religions can unify people by allowing them to hear a message and choose whether or not to accept and join a community, said Aapengnuo.

Not everyone agrees that religion offers unity.

"I think religion divides people because religion is man-made," said Wardell Johnson, senior biology major. "The first real religion according to Elijah Muhammad is the submitting to God."

Johnson, who is Muslim, stressed the difference between religious institutions and rituals versus actual spirituality. "We get caught up in the ritual and forget the purpose behind the ritual. So if form supersedes function than why do we need the form?" he questioned.

Johnson said there is an important distinction between religious customs and spirituality that many feel needs to be tackled. Aapengnuo agreed that many people parade religion as a set of ideas based only on doctrines and customs without an emphasis on the human experience.

However, Aapengnuo said religion should be a liberating phenomena. He acknowledged that some people try to force their beliefs on others but contended that

it is important for people not to impose their own belief or rituals on others because this is adverse to the true essence of religion which is choice.

Sophomore health management major Billie Castle said, like Aapengnuo, religion can both divide and unify people. She said sometimes people allow their religious differences to overtake situations, but she is also certain that religion unifies people with common interests and aspirations.

"I'm a Southern Baptist. I was brought up that way and it's basically a way of life. When people get older they sometimes steer away from what they were brought up on, but for me, it's a way of life and I really enjoy it so I am staying with it," Castle said.

Castle's commitment to her faith and the traditions passed down by her family reflect a significant characteristic of many black people today.

Although practices in the African-American community vary, traditionally religious institutions in the black community have played a significant role in unifying the masses and providing an organized basis for resistance to oppression and assimilation.

The unifying potential of religion is demonstrated countless times throughout African-American history. Through his encounter with Islam, Malcolm X was able to not only eloquently challenge America's racism but raise the consciousness of millions of blacks. Likewise, Harriet Tubman articulated her Christian faith through both her words and actions by creating a cohesive movement towards liberation. Religious institutions also helped the African Diaspora to preserve many African customs in the midst of a concerted effort to suppress African spirituality.

Aapengnuo emphasized that in all his travels throughout the world he has seen a spiritual connection between the African Diaspora and Africans on the continent.

"They are unified spiritually; it's a question of discovering it," he said. Despite our varying religious views and our cultural differences it is still possible to remain spiritually united, he expressed.

"The beauty of the Diaspora is that after all these years they have not lost their fundamental spirit and this shows you the resilience of the African Diaspora," Aapengnuo said.

## Student Talks Finances

BY ASHLEY THOMAS  
Contributing Writer

With the goal of graduation in mind, along with various extracurricular activities and internships, students don't always make financial education a top priority.

Excuses such as, "I'll get back on track after graduation," or "I'll just charge it," are all bad habits that college students will have to face later down the road. But before the loans become unbearable and credit scores take a downfall, Imoni Hampton wants to educate.

A senior political science major from Long Beach, Calif., Hampton, who currently interns with MasterCard Worldwide, has been hosting seminars on money management for students to teach them how to build their credit while in college.

"A lot of students have credit and checking accounts and what they don't realize is as soon as they open it up, their financial history is being recorded," Hampton said. "Employers, loan officers, landlords all see it and they all can look up your credit history without your permission."

With her internship, Hampton works specifically for "Are You Credit Wise?" It's a paid internship that "trains interns to lead campus-wide education campaigns focused on the fundamentals of good credit habits. The program is held at nearly 60 colleges and universities around the United States and Canada including Duke University, Hampton University and Syracuse University.

Not only is Hampton the only Howard student participating in the program, but she's one of only two HBCU interns in the program.

During her seminars, held in different Howard dormitories,

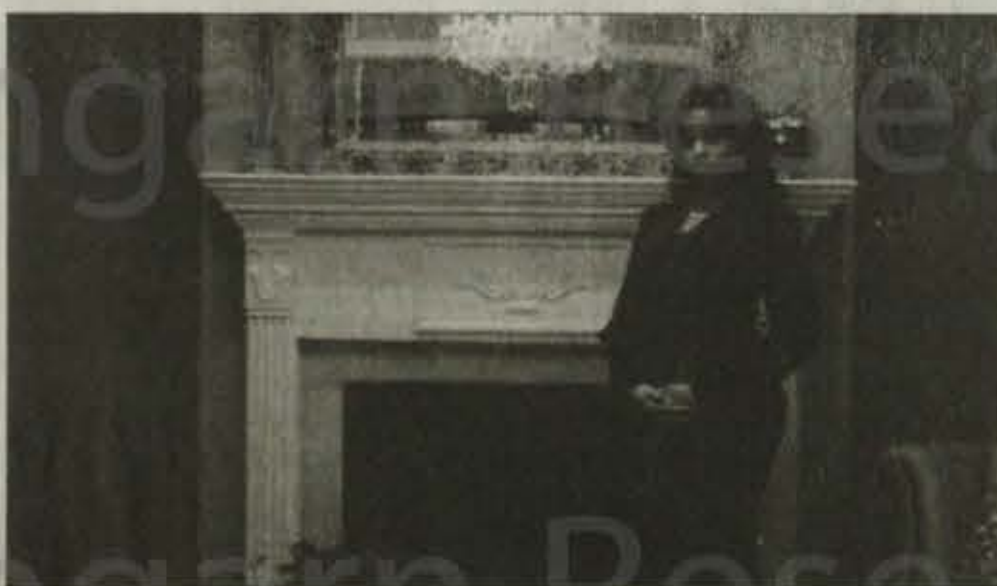


Photo: Courtesy of Imoni Hampton

Imoni Hampton was also one of the 90 students selected as a Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities for 2009-2010.

Hampton uses PowerPoint presentations to inform students on how to obtain their credit history, how to budget, how to know what their credit score is and why it's important to their future.

Ashley Williams, senior TV production major and a resident advisor in the Harriet Tubman Quadrangle, explained how Hampton's session helped her see the importance of using her credit and debit cards wisely. "I ended up learning that credit cards don't necessarily have to be a bad thing. Just make sure your not over spending what you don't have," Williams said.

Williams said if you have a job and are saving and spending your money, credit cards can be helpful, but if you're just living life day by day and don't know where your next check is coming from, it can be bad. "In these economic times, it can be harder because you're probably making less, so that's where you have to be careful," she said.

Another resident advisor in the Quad, Lauren Gordon, said of her 42 students more than 30 came to Hampton's seminar with more questions than she imagined they would have.

"They had a lot of really important questions. We had to keep reminding them to wait un-

til the end. It was very engaging," Gordon said.

Gordon explained how hearing all the questions from her residents made her realize how relevant the topic was and how helpful Hampton had been. "After I saw how successful the program was on my floor, I invited her back to do it again for the whole Quad, instead of just my floor. I also suggested she hold the program in Drew Hall for the boys."

During the seminar, Gordon found out that two of her residents had Victoria's Secret credit cards. "It was like divine intervention," Gordon said. "After the session, one of them was going to cut it up and the other was going to send her home to her mom."

Aside from hosting these programs two to three times a week, Hampton serves as editor-in-chief of the Bison yearbook while working hard to finish her strongly in her last two semesters.

"She's a self-starter, hard worker; she has great integrity and a very sweet disposition," said Mr. Reed, Hampton's yearbook advisor.

"I can honestly say when it comes to her work ethics, I don't have to brow her back about it. She gets things done. She's a good leader."

Only  
Three  
More  
Days to  
Decide

Remember  
the Last  
Day to  
Drop  
Classes

Friday,  
Nov. 20



## University Releases Statement

*Continued from FRONT, SPINGARN*

Faculty has raised the issues concerning MSRC more than once, according to Battle.

In his statement, Ribeau stated that the University has not reduced funding to the center, despite the budget university-wide cuts.

Ribeau said the vision of MSRC is "to further increase its scope and reposition its relevance as Howard strengthens its research agenda."

The statement also said that, as a means to attract support, "Friends of MSRC," a fundraising program started in 1996 to assist in collecting additional financial support for MSRC, will be expanded.

Ribeau wrote, "Again, I would like to abate your individual and collective fears about Moorland's sustainability and its preservation for other generations of scholars."

**Wednesday,  
Nov. 25**  
will be the last  
issue of *The Hilltop*  
until next semester!  
Have a great break!

## Non-profit Org Offers Discount

*Angel Food Ministries provides student with grocery alternative*

*Continued from FRONT, ANGEL*

The menu for this month's box includes, but is not limited to, one pound of ground beef, a pound of pasta, New York Strip steak and fresh fruit. They also offer specialty packages with only meat or only fruit and vegetables for less than \$30.

"Angel Food Ministries would definitely be beneficial to college students on a limited budget. We deliver food to host sites quickly and we offer great packages," said Juda Engelmeyer, the director of public relations for the company.

With such low prices,

many may question how the organization is able to offer food for such affordable prices. According to their management, they buy their food in bulk, and with a following of 500,000 families, it comes as no surprise that the food is so inexpensive.

The more families who want to use their services, the cheaper they can offer food.

"I would consider using them at some point as long as they're not really far," said Sonja White, a junior psychology major.

There are three host sites near Howard University that utilize their services including

the Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle, the Mosaic Church of the Nazarene and the National Faith-Based Alliance to Combat Hunger & Homelessness.

Angel Food Ministries delivers the packages to the host sites and students can go to any of the three locations previously mentioned to pick up their food. There is no application process or income qualification. Individuals can just go on the Web site, search for the host site nearest to them and sign up for that particular place.

Alex Smith, a junior psychology major, said that he definitely feels like it would be a great

program for students to utilize. "Not everyone has the money to buy everything they need," he said. "I feel like it would make grocery shopping more affordable."

Lindsey Payne, a junior speech pathology major, shared a similar sentiment. "I buy groceries all the time. They can really start to add up after a while. I would consider using their services and I know a lot of other people that would too."

If you were on a tight budget, Angel Food Ministries would be a quick, inexpensive and healthy way to order groceries.

## Gang Violence Highlighted at Forum

*Continued from FRONT, GANGS*

"I saw the streets as something I liked. The n\*\*\*\*s I saw were flashy, got all the girls. Girls showed them love, and they had power when they were walking through the streets," he said. "I wanted it because I wanted it, not because I didn't have family."

A common misconception about many gangs is that they have no problem killing people, regardless of their affiliation. G-Black said Crips do not condone this, and in some cases, they have fought back against opposing groups that have done so.

"People always claimin' that we tryna' kill innocent people on purpose, but that's not the case," G-Black said. "Crips chill, and we laid back. We about our money. It was a situation when some innocent girl got hit and we did our thing. We didn't just do nothing. We ain't as bad as ya'll portray."

Vice President of "Respect Inc." Phillip Stevenson said people are drawn to gangs for financial reasons. "A lot of people gravitate towards gang violence, because it generates a lot of money, and it's a form of organized crime. If you don't have money you're going to get it however you can," he said.

Stevenson continued, "We try to show them that even though they may not think an education can benefit them immediately, in the long run, it can, and they can make a lot of money by staying in school and staying focused. You just have to keep talking to them and staying in their lives and change can and does happen in them."

The speakers said a lot of gang members join gangs because they have families to support. They also gave anecdotes about different people who struggle to survive without the safety net of gangs. Gangs can provide family, stability and quick access to money. Many of

them are not opposed to getting steady jobs or an education.

"I have a child to support, so I'm not against a nine to five or any of that," G-Black said.

Once the program was over, some students left feeling differently about gangs and the role of mentors.

Brittany Johnson, freshman communications major, said, "It made me think differently about gang violence. I didn't realize the gang life on the east coast was as big as it is. I kind of like how 'Respect Inc.' is almost like a gang image consultant. You don't really see that, and I didn't expect that."

Have you Had Your Daily Dose of

**H T O** online?

**TheHillTopOnline.com**



# New Motorola Droid Predicted to Rival Apple iPhone

BY RONALD TOLSON JR.  
Contributing Writer

Since its debut in 2007, people have crowned Apple's iPhone as the king of all smart phones, in lieu of its sleek frame, user friendly interface and numerous apps.

"My brother has the iPhone and he's completely an iPhone fanatic," said Sharde Torbit, a junior television production major. "It's cool and all, but I need actual keyboard buttons; the touch screen does get on my nerves sometimes when I am trying to dial a number."

For the last two years, other smart phone companies have been trying to dethrone the iPhone of its title as the ultimate mobile gadget.

The newest challenger to step into the ring is the Motorola Droid.

The Droid comes out swinging hard as it mocks the iPhone in its current TV ads which highlights all of the iPhone's "iDon'ts" when compared to The Droid.

Also the arrival of The Droid was published last Thursday in full-page newspaper ads.

Prior to The Droid's release, some analysts even dubbed The Droid as an "iPhone Killer."

Although the Droid is not an "iPhone killer," it is definitely a killer phone and a worthy iPhone competitor.

The Droid stands out as a strong competitor for several reasons, which includes its network carrier, software and design.

The Droid is carried by the Verizon Wireless Network.

Besides being the most reliable network, Verizon is America's largest 3G Network.

This means that The Droid's network covers five times more 3G coverage than the iPhone's AT&T 3G coverage.

As far as software, it's the first mobile device to run the latest version of Google's Experience Device, Android 2.0.

Other phones run 1.5 or 1.6 versions of Google's operating system.

The Google Experience Device also establishes The Droid



The Droid will be on the Verizon network. It has a physical keyboard and a 3.7-inch touch screen, among other things.

as the first cell phone to operate Google's new upgraded Google Maps program.

This surprisingly free software works just as well as any \$500 GPS navigation device that you would find in a car or mounted to someone's windshield said *The NY Times*.

The program provides spoken turn-by-turn directions, map icons, satellite views, color coding traffic indication and even street photos of any address.

However, much of its credits can be attributed to the Droid's developers.

Although the Droid is barely broader than the iPhone, it makes up for this flaw with its 3.7-inch touch screen which is bigger than the iPhone's 3.5-inch screen.

The 3.7-inch screen also of-

fers a much higher resolution quality.

Its chiseled, angular exterior also hides a slide-out physical keyboard and a removable battery; both are features that the iPhone lacks.

The Droid's battery life even surpasses that of the iPhone.

For a single phone call, the Droid's battery can maintain for a length of more than seven and a half hours compared to only five hours of an iPhone's battery life.

One of its features which is heavily flaunted in Verizon's "iDon't" campaign is the Droid's ability to simultaneously run several apps at once, something the iPhone cannot do.

The iPhone does have a 3-megapixel camera, but the Droid's camera is a knock out in

comparison.

The Droid camera comes with 5-megapixels and is equipped with flash, yet again another feature the iPhone lacks.

Although there are some features that the iPhone does not have, the Droid does have some weak spots.

The Droid is \$299.99 before a \$100 mail-in rebate, required with a two-year service contract for new customers or renewing customers.

The iPhone 16GB, on the other hand, starts at \$199.

Although it champions being on America's most reliable network, the Droid does not work outside of the United States; the iPhone does.

The Droid also lacks in the number of apps it has.

The Droid's 12,000 apps are minuscule in contrast to the iPhone app store which offers 100,000 apps.

Apple's iTunes store allows auto syncing when downloading anything from the store to the iPhone, so be prepared to manually edit and arrange your music, photos and videos when downloading from Verizon.

The Droid also requires its users to download all of its apps via the phone.

With the iPhone you have the option of using your computer or iPhone to download your apps.

The Droid's Web browser is good; however, the iPhone's browser is faster.

Not having a built in flash may be a problem when trying to take a picture in a dimly lit room.

Despite having a built in flash and additional 2-megapixels, the Droid's camera is not as impressive as it may sound.

Its photos and videos appear just average, that of any cellular device currently on the market.

*The NY Times* says the big flaw of the Droid is with its simplicity.

Although techies may go nuts over its flexibility, normal people might find it a little frustrating to operate.

Its keyboard is a little tiny and crunched, and the keys do not protrude out, for example like a TV remote control; rather, they are completely flat which may make it difficult for some people to type. Other flaws such as the keyboard not lighting up when it should and the screen image does not rotate when it should.

"In my opinion, a phone is a phone is a phone. They all have the same bells and whistles so as long as I can make a phone call I am happy. People have forgotten that at the end of the day, it's still a phone," said Candice Iloh, a senior public relations major.

Simplicity and functionality are subjective so which ever phone you choose you will be making a great choice.

## Facebook Games May Have a Cost for Users

BY TIFFANY P. BRIGGS  
Contributing Writer

Shantell Green, a senior biology major, sits at her computer typing an eight-page, single-spaced paper for her world geography class, when suddenly she stops and sighs; she has come to a writer's block.

She then clicks on the unopened Internet tab at the bottom of her screen where she is already signed in to her Facebook page.

She clicks on a Facebook game, Farmville, and plays it until she runs out of pretend money, then returns to her paper.

What Green does not know is she may have just been charged to play this 10-minute game.

"I thought that I should be weary of who I talked to on Face-

book, not the games that I play," Green said.

According to *Time Magazine*, the most popular games played by Facebook gamers are Mafia Wars, Farmville and Restaurant City.

More than 63 million people play Farmville, which happens to be the game most reported for scams, also according to *Time*.

It is easy to get scammed by Farmville because the purpose of the game is to create a virtual farm by growing crops and livestock so that you can earn virtual money.

In order to farm at a quicker pace, a person can invest real cash through PayPal or a credit card to purchase virtual goods, such as planting seed or a tractor.

In the case that a person does not have real cash, the game presents offers from advertisers like a

subscription to Netflix, a survey or an IQ test which upon completion will give the person some seed, a tractor or virtual cash in return.

According to the executive manager of TrialPay, Hubert Grant, once a person accepts the offers from these advertisers they usually get some time of mysterious fee charged to their cell phone bill.

"They require a cell phone number to send you the results of your quiz. When you enter your number and create a password, you have now subscribed to a service you never wanted but will be billed for," Grant said.

These advertisers who are scamming people are targeting children more so than adults said *Time Magazine*.

"They [advertisers] know children will not have money or

credit cards, but they know that most children have cell phones and won't be skeptical about giving their telephone number which makes them easy targets," Grant said.

Even though children are being targeted by these advertisers, adults and teens are falling victim to these scams as well.

"I took a quick IQ quiz on Facebook while playing Mafia Wars, and a week later I started getting text messages telling me that my subscription had been processed and I would be charged monthly; I was so confused," said Nathan Young, a freshman business administration major.

Companies like Zynga, Myspace and RockYou, who endorse these virtual games, have teamed up to find a solution to this on going problem.

Mark Pincus, executive director of Zynga, the company that creates these games, has already taken down two Facebook games due to issues with affiliated advertisers.

In a mixer, Pincus bragged to application developers of the not-so-ethical methods used to increase profits.

"I knew that I wanted to control my destiny, so I knew I needed revenues, right [expletive] now," Pincus said. "We did anything possible just to get revenues so that we could grow and be a real business."

"There are so many gimmicks and scams online that students need to make sure they are careful and read all the fine print on Web sites," Green said.

## The Business of People

The Role of Social Entrepreneurship in Politics

November 17, 2009

### SCREENING

"By the People: The Election of Barack Obama"  
Howard University Blackburn Center, East Ballroom  
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### SYMPOSIUM

"Social Entrepreneurship and Politics"  
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Howard University Blackburn Center, East Ballroom  
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# Get to Know Area Schools: American University

BY SARAYA WINTERSMITH  
Contributing Writer

Situated in a residential region of northwest Washington D.C., American University (AU) was established in 1893 with a United Methodist Church affiliation. Today, this private, co-educational institution instructs a combined graduate and undergraduate student body of over 10,000. A full-time faculty of 591 members administers classes for its 57 bachelor's, 51 master's, and eight doctoral programs as well as the J.D., S.J.D., and LL.M.

According to the informational pamphlet "American University at a Glance," the student body is composed of 53 percent Caucasians, 7 percent African Americans, 6 percent Asian Americans, 5 percent Hispanic Americans and 10 percent international students.

Three percent of the student body is designated "multiracial," and 17 percent is designated "unknown."

AU's campus boasts a 84-acre arboretum and public garden. Among the 37 campus buildings, there are various provision centers — the Sports Center complex (Bender Arena, Reeves Aquatic Center, and the William I. Jacobs Fitness Center), 19 computer laboratories, the Mary Graydon Center and the Kay Spiritual Life Center — to accommodate students' needs. The Butler Pavilion even features a TIGI Boutique and a UPS Store.

There are also seven residence halls on campus which house 2,900 students each year.

One feature which could be considered "odd" by Howard students is the lack of visitation stipulations at American. According to freshman student ambassador Megan Eberly, bringing in guests "is as simple as going downstairs to claim someone," whether male or female, anytime during the day or night.

While the absence of a check-in process or a curfew may be favorable to some, others speculate that failing to identify visitors could be problematic.

"I would not feel safe if visitors were not required to be checked into our residence halls," said Mandisa J. Blessings, freshman cultural anthropology major at Howard.

As part of the Consortium of Universities in the Washington Metropolitan Area, American offers students the opportunity to take courses on their campus.

Junior Howard student Shaquana Ford has participated in the consortium program at AU before.

"I only did it for a semester for an audio production class. It was cool," said Ford. "I believe that taking classes at other universities makes students more cultured. American and the other universities in the area offer classes that Howard doesn't, so why not take advantage."

Although the surrounding area of AU is residential, the campus shuttle service helps to make Metrorail and Metrobus accessible. Shuttles run every 20 minutes to and from the main campus, the Tenley satellite campus, the Washington College of Law, Park Bethesda, and the Tenleytown/AU Metrorail station.

Students can also use the shuttle to commute to neighborhood stores such as CVS and Whole Foods to purchase those things which are not available on campus.

While there aren't many nearby places to shop for things other than groceries, popular eateries such as Z Burger and Chipotle, as well as The U.S. Naval Observatory and Embassy Row are also located nearby.



Joyce N. Boghosian - White House Photographer

First Lady Michelle Obama launched a mentoring program for D.C. metro area high school ladies to build support systems with White House staff women.

## First Lady Launches Mentoring Program

BY CHELSEA BATTLE  
Contributing Writer

First lady Michelle Obama launched a new year-long mentoring program in the White House for young girls last week.

Recognizing the importance of having role models at a young age, Obama emphasizes that the purpose of the program is to give girls at local high schools access to accomplished women in the White House, who can help them to build leadership skills and

tutor them in financial literacy, careers, life skills, health and more. She also strives to empower young ladies to understand that along the path to success there are often "bumps on the road," but with the right support system anything is possible.

"I think this is awesome," said Jamela Joseph, community service director for the Howard section of National Council of Negro Women. "These are the types of programs young girls need. I work with a non-profit organization who serves high school

girls in the juvenile justice system and through my work with them it became evident that these girls simply need positive role models who can give them advice and guidance. Mentoring programs help build a foundation for personal and professional growth," Joseph said. "I am really happy that Michelle Obama has started this program. I hope it will help these girls reach their maximum potential."

All of the young ladies in the program are 10th and 11th graders who are handpicked by their principals in D.C., Maryland and Virginia schools. Meeting at least once a month, the girls will have the opportunity to be mentored by senior women on the White House staff, including Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, Domestic Policy Advisor Melody Barnes, Obama's Chief of Staff Susan Sher and Social Secretary Desiree Rogers among others.

Obama has inspired young women all over the nation with her program.

"I think it's great to finally have a strong leader, and a female leader at that, to be so interactive with the community," said Malika Michaud, junior public relations major. "It's really empowering to see a woman like Michelle Obama taking the initiative to show interest in [their] futures."

Lindsey Payne, junior speech pathology major, shared a similar sentiment.

"The program sounds like it will be a great opportunity for these girls. I've done mentoring in the past with Heads Up and it was a really good experience," Payne said. "What she is doing is great especially because it's in the White House."

Both President Barack Obama and the first lady have often stated that they have come from humble means, but because they both had the right people in their corners to support them, they were able to explore endless possibilities. Obama seeks to do just that with her program. Taking a pay-it-forward approach, she hopes that the young ladies will get all that they can out of the mentoring initiative so that when they get into positions in their lives to empower others, they will.

## 'Charter for Compassion' Sparks Religious Conversation Worldwide

BY EMILY GILLYLEN  
Contributing Writer

Sparking conversation on global understanding of morality and religion was the aim of author Karen Armstrong's "Charter for Compassion." After being awarded the Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) Prize in 2008, Armstrong wanted to create a simple document that would serve as the ideal for moral and ethical practices across religious faiths worldwide.

On Nov. 12, after much anticipation by believers of all faiths, Karen Armstrong revealed the document to the world.

The charter begins by acknowledging that people have failed to treat each with compassion. Its final text calls for action among all men and women "to restore compassion to the center of morality and religion, to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate, to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures, to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity, to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings — even those regarded as enemies."

The "Charter for Compassion" has been endorsed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama, among other public figures.

Individuals of all faiths and nationalities from around the globe submitted their own words for the charter to the website launched for the project [www.charterforcompassion.org](http://www.charterforcompassion.org), over one year ago.

"I think it's a good idea that all the religions are making an effort to come together. However, I



Gerry Perry - Getty Images

Karen Armstrong's "Charter for Compassion" emphasizes the necessity for restoring compassion to morality and religion across worldwide faiths.

am not sure how effective this will be," said Demarco Smith, a freshman political science major.

"Compassion is not the feeling of good will or pity," Armstrong said. Moreover, he said, compassion is more like empathy. To be empathetic is to place one in someone else's position.

The Rev. Dr. Peter Storey, who was prison chaplain to Nelson Mandela, is a former Methodist Bishop from South Africa.

During a news conference, Storey said people should ask themselves, "How many people have died because I believe the way that I believe?"

"I believe that people can change, [because] deep down they want to change," Storey said.

The religious contributors to the charter all unanimously believe that compassion is something that we must be taught and is a learned behavior.

As this historical charter unveiling concluded, the Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, who

worked diligently with Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement, said that King would say, "Dreams are dangerous, they matter. They are not free."

Campbell added, "Compassion is a dangerous dream."

In reference to the charter, sophomore African American studies major Brittany Jones said, "At Howard, it is especially important that we demonstrate compassion for our brothers and sisters. We have a very diverse student body with very unique backgrounds."

Armstrong said she would like a rapid response council to be established to answer questions of compassion worldwide.

Already, the final text of the charter has been inscribed to over 60 plaques in 10 countries.

The final text of "Charter for Compassion" is available online at [www.charterforcompassion.org](http://www.charterforcompassion.org).

## Metro Briefs

### Nine-Year-Old Shot, Killed in Columbia Heights

On Saturday night, a 9-year-old boy was shot in his home. Around 10 p.m., Oscar Fuentes was in his family's apartment when a stray bullet tore through the door and struck the young boy, killing him. He lived in a four-story building on the 1400 block of Columbia Road in Northwest D.C. Responders came to the scene and provided first-aid care. Fuentes died after he arrived at the hospital.

"Justice always has to be served, especially when such a young person is shot in such a fashion, in his own home, in his own apartment, doing nothing more than living the life of a 9-year-old boy," said Mayor Adrian Fenty.

D.C. Police Chief Cathy Lanier said that response was quick and took several people in custody. No arrests were made.

### Parked School Buses Catch Fire in Northeast

A school bus was engulfed in a fire on Sunday. The bus was parked on a school parking lot in Northeast on New York Avenue and Kendall Street. There were no injuries in the incident.

Three buses were damaged in the fire, one permanently. The other two underwent moderate heat damage and slight heat and smoke damage. According to D.C. Fire and EMS Public Information Officer Pete Pringer, the fire seems like an accident but an investigation is underway to find the exact causes.



### D.C. Sniper's Son Separates Himself from Father

John Allen Muhammad's son recently spoke out and said that despite his father's actions, he is his own person. Twenty-seven-year-old Lindbergh Williams, said "I am the son of the D.C. Sniper, but not him. You see what I'm saying? I am my own man and make my own decisions."

Muhammad was executed last Tuesday for his involvement in the 2002 killings in the D.C. area. Williams now lives in Baton Rouge, La. and hopes to establish a name for himself, separate from the memory of his father. He spent time with Muhammad the day of his execution.

"I got to know him in the end," said Muhammad.



- Compiled by  
Genet Lakew, Metro Editor



*"It's no use of talking unless people understand what you say."*

*~Zora Neale Hurston~*



*The Hilltop Newspaper celebrates 85  
years of continuous news to Howard  
Students and the community,  
and remaining  
The Daily Student Voice of  
Howard University*



**Did you know?**

• Brandy has finally settled with the remaining plaintiffs involved in her 2006 car crash. Though many of the final settlements are private, TMZ reports that Brandy gave \$300,000 each to the children of a woman named Awatef Aboudihaj, who died in the crash.

• Air Jordan celebrate their 25th anniversary. The 2010 Air Jordan will be released nationwide Feb. 13, 2010 for a suggested retail price of \$170.

-Compiled by Life & Style Editor Cierra Jones Courtesy of Vibe.com

## Cultural Etiquette Vital Everywhere

BY SURITA TAYLOR  
Contributing Writer

Imagine that you're leaving the states to go overseas and study abroad. Bags packed, check, passport in tow, check, currency exchanged, and you're good to go. That is, until you get off of the plane and into the airport terminal and offend people by putting up the "peace" sign while taking your "I've arrived" pictures. Welcome to the U.K., where our "American" peace sign is equivalent to an obscene phrase.

Some of the first things people consider when they are going out of the country are historic sites to visit, beaches, restaurants, and family. Many travelers overlook the value of learning about the traditions and customs of a foreign country, and how they may have to do things differently while staying there. Some countries' customs and traditions are similar to our American way of life, while others may be totally different.

Here are a few customs and traditions found in places all over the world. In Egypt, family ties are strong; family members are responsible for the integrity and name of the family, as well as the behavior of other family members.

In Italy, it isn't a good idea to call people between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., because that is usually nap time. Brazilians view time as being flexible. To be late isn't always a problem to them. In Korea, respecting your elders is important. It would almost never be appropriate to argue with an elderly person. In Nigeria, some would take offense to having a person put up his or her five fingers to another person. It would be the equivalent of being called a bastard. Bring-

ing your vintage leather Coach bag inside while visiting a Hindu temple would be considered very offensive. Those of the Hindu faith believe that anything made from a butchered cow should not be inside of the temple.

Appiah Boakye will be traveling to Nagoya, Japan next semester to study abroad. The junior, political science and classics double major has studied the Japanese language for five years. "I am able to understand it better than I can speak the language," she said.

Boakye hasn't done too much in depth research about the differences in customs and traditions independently. "Being that I have studied the language for this long, I have picked up a few things about the culture from my classes,

like taking off your shoes when you enter someone's house, or the fact that the Japanese don't give compliments like we do in America. They don't need all of that," she said.

Travelers should consider the crowd they intend to be around when going to another country. Younger individuals in many countries tend to be less traditional. Boakye is counting on the chance that she may get to live with other Japanese students. "I am either going to stay with a family, which will be more traditional, or with other students, where they probably won't take offense to things as much as older individuals."

Heebeom Choi has been teaching Korean courses at Howard for three years. As a native of Korea, and having lived in New

Zealand for six years, she knows the importance of learning about a culture and understanding the differences between countries. "It is very helpful to do a little bit of research before going to another country. I encourage my students to travel to countries with totally different cultures, so that they can see another world in order to expand their thoughts, and understanding, and have real motivation to communicate and learn different languages."

To ensure that you are displaying appropriate cultural etiquette, don't hesitate to ask questions, utilize the resources you have at hotels, or information centers, and do some preliminary internet research before you leave for your destination.



Photo Courtesy of foreignlanguageexchange.com

Before making the trip to a foreign land, travelers should make sure they learn the appropriate cultural etiquette.



Photo Courtesy of filmisery.com

The film portrays the life of a black, teenage girl faced with a horrific family life that causes her great pain and turmoil.

## A 'Precious' Life Depicted

BY EBONI FARMER  
Online Editor

Teenage pregnancy. Illiteracy. Incest. Sexual abuse. Physical abuse. Mental abuse.

These are the ugly truths that are inflicted upon one person in the motion picture "Precious: Based on the novel 'Push' by Sapphire."

Sixteen-year-old, Claireece 'Precious' Jones, played by first time actress Gabourey Sidibe, was physically and sexually abused by both her father and mother. At the beginning of the film we find out that Precious is illiterate and pregnant with her father's second child.

Director Lee Daniels who also directed Monster's Ball, was able to breathe life into the characters from Sapphire's novel "Push." Set in Harlem in 1987, the film is gritty and many of its scenes were shot in dim lighting.

Despite the dark setting in Precious' home, where the abuse takes place, there are moments of comic relief and happiness that help to make the film bearable and entertaining. At crucial moments when Precious needs to escape her reality, she finds herself in a fantasy world where she is a glamorous superstar.

The most gruesome scenes in the film are filled with sexual and physical abuse that leave the audience shocked and furious. Her absent father appears in the film only as Precious has flashbacks to

the times he raped her. Mo'Nique whose performance has created Oscar buzz, plays Precious' mother Mary Jones who is her main abuser in the film.

"You a dummy. Don't nobody want you. Don't nobody need you," Mary yells to Precious in one scene. "School ain't go help you none. Take your a\*\* down to the welfare."

Taking her mother's advice, Precious tries to get welfare. Her case winds up in the hands of Ms. Weiss played by Mariah Carey.

*"Despite the dark setting...there are moments of comic relief and happiness that help to make the film bearable and entertaining"*

-Ebony Farmer

Like every character in the film, Ms. Weiss plays an important role in helping Precious find a way out of her unfortunate circumstances.

Despite her struggles, Precious finds a sanctuary that opens new doors. After being kicked out of junior high school because of her pregnancy, Precious finds herself at an alternative school called "Each One, Teach One." The opening credits of the film are spelled in- correctly, highlighting Precious'

illiteracy.

Precious conquers her illiteracy with the help of her teacher Blu Rain, played by actress Paula Patton. Ms. Rain gives Precious a journal to write in and reads it every day. Literacy empowers Precious by giving her a voice, the tool she needs to escape a life of abuse.

The turning point in the film is when Precious gives birth to her second child Abdul. When Precious returns home after being at the hospital her mother goes in to a rage. Precious knows that by staying at home with her mother, she is putting herself and her son in danger.

Toward the end of the film there is a sick twist to this already heartbreaking story, leaving Precious with one question, "Why me?" Yet, even this deathly discovery does not stop her.

During the final moments of the film during a meeting with Ms. Weiss, Mo'Nique delivers her best scene in the movie and Precious finally discovers why her mother can never truly love her.

"But, those... those things she told you I did to her? Who... who... who else was going to love me? Who is going to make me feel good?" she said in reference to the sexual abuse she inflicted upon Precious.

While Mo'Nique's is captivating as the mother sent from hell it is Sidibe who is the star in the film. As Precious she is above all else, inspirational.

## Kennedy Center Presents New Play "Shear Madness"

BY MAYA RHODAN  
Staff Writer

Tony is having a dinner party. Mrs. Shubert needs to catch a flight. Eddie is trying to cut a deal. Barbara is acting strangely and Isabel is about to pay the ultimate price, her life.

In the Kennedy Center's presentation of Paul Portner's "Shear Madness," this motley crew gets caught in the middle of a murder investigation involving a pair of hair cutting shears and a concert pianist. For 20 years, this whodunit comedy has been tickling the fancy of the D.C. area's inner 12 year old with its corny pop culture related jokes and complete involvement of the audience.

In the fictional world of "Shear Madness," in the middle of D.C.'s Georgetown neighborhood there is a unisex salon and a flamboyant and feisty owner, Tony Whitcomb, who is constantly annoyed by the piano playing of his mysterious upstairs neighbor Isabel Journey. He works in this salon, which appears to be 50s themed, with a sassy female stylist named Barbara DeMarco, whose attire was more befitting 20 years ago when the play first premiered.

Barbara's client, Mrs. Shubert is a stereotypical dramatic elite unhappy with her marriage. She is two-timing her husband with a man she plans to run away to Bermuda with before the sudden murder of Journey keeps her locked in the salon under police questioning for the remainder of the day.

Throughout a great deal of the first act, you may wonder 'who is that man in the corner of the stage?' You will later learn that he is Eddie Lawrence, the witty antique salesman who is one of the only normal characters in the play, and the one who gives the two quirky detectives, Nick Rossetti and Mike Thomas, a great deal of their jokes.

The comedy and murder mystery provides a special experience for every audience member by allowing them to deliberate

along with the detectives to find out who committed the crime. The cast's improvisational skill and intense knowledge of popular culture attempt to keep the audience thoroughly entertained and laughing throughout the entire production.

The characters of Tony and Barbara play to the stereotypes of an openly gay man and a sassy east coast woman, but fail to go any further to provide a representation of who these characters would be in the real world. Let's be real, it's 2009, if a grown woman who worked with a man as flamboyant as Tony actually dressed like a 13 year old in 1985, she would be fired immediately.

The pop culture references and improvisation are almost convincing enough to distract from the overall detachment from reality, but one look at the yellow lily wall paper and checker board floor of the set and you're instantly reminded how impossible it would be for this place to exist in real life, especially in Georgetown.

"Shear Madness" isn't terribly un-funny. There were definitely times when the crowd roared with laughter.

But there are only so many times that one can stand hearing a professional actor completely obliterate a turn of phrase like "It isn't rocket science" with "It's not rocket surgery."

In all actuality, this play has absolutely nothing to do with Howard students, who would probably find difficulty in relating to it. The characters are tacky, the jokes are corny, and the pop culture references are disturbingly vanilla. For some reason people have paid the \$42 it takes to see this performance consistently enough to keep it running at the Kennedy Center.

If you're into the kind of comedy that television shows such as, "The Soup," "Chelsea Lately" and "iCarly" provide, by all means go see "Shear Madness." If you're not, save your money and use it as a down payment on next semester's dining dollars.



## College of Arts and Sciences Evaluation Week

**November 16-20, 2009**

Effective teaching and learning are processes requiring continuous assessment and evaluation.

As students, your contribution to this process is course evaluation.

### You have a voice.

Be Responsible!      Be engaged!      Be heard!

Instructions for students to conduct course valuations:

- Step 1      Login to Bison Web
- Step 2      Click the link Surveys
- Step 3      Click the link Arts and Sciences Course Evaluation
- Step 4      Read the information carefully and start the course evaluation process

*Students having problems with the evaluation process should contact Mr. Girmah at*

*202 806-4454 or by e-mail at*

*agirma@howard.edu*





## New 'Precious' Film Tackles Taboos in Black Community

Last week, director Lee Daniels, best known for being director of 2001's *Monster's Ball*, delivered a different type of message with "Precious," the heart-wrenching story of a young woman who lived through a tremendously difficult childhood, tainted with incest, sexual abuse and a struggle with being HIV-positive.

After months of commercial promotion and endorsement by entertainment powerhouse Oprah Winfrey, the film, which was based on the novel "Push" written by Sapphire, tackled issues that are overwhelmingly taboo in American culture, such as incest, child abuse and HIV.

The film also served as a vehicle to emphasize how our childhood experiences really do affect us for the rest of our lives.

"Precious" certainly seems to have left a lasting impression on students and opened the doors to dialogue about the issues that were addressed in this extremely emotional film. Although

the issues Daniels addressed in his profound interpretation of Sapphire's novel are considered taboo, the unfortunate reality is that these issues, no matter how controversial or "sick" we find them, do affect the national community, and undoubtedly the international community.

According to the Center for Disease Control

**Our View:**  
*As young African Americans, we should discuss, instead of trying to ignore, serious issues within the community.*

and Prevention, HIV/AIDS is currently the leading cause of death of African Americans, and we account for approximately half of the U.S. population of those who contract the virus. According to a Washington Post article published earlier this year, rates of HIV/AIDS in D.C. are even higher than rates in

many African countries.

According to Shattered Souls, a network dedicated to helping victims of sexual abuse, a staggering 30 to 40 percent of children that are sexually abused suffer that abuse at the hands of a family member.

Research done by the United States Department of Health and Human Services shows that nearly a quarter of American children had suffered some type of abuse or maltreatment in 2007.

The statistics reflect on the negative state of a variety of different issues we currently face as a community.

Issues such as HIV/AIDS and child abuse are no longer things you just see segments about on talk shows, or hear public service announcements about on the radio. The effects of these epidemics are all around us.

Hopefully, the release of a film such as "Precious" will continue to open the door to dialogue and awareness about these issues—it's a step in the right direction.

## Perspective

*Hold Up, House N\*\*\*\*?*

Bryant Brown, I find your perspective, "Excuse Me, House N\*\*\*\*," to be both offensive and hilarious. According to you, "a house n\*\*\*\* is offended by the word n\*\*\*\*." However, I would never refer to myself as a "n\*\*\*\*," despite your foolish accusations.

According to dictionary.com, a n\*\*\*\* is defined as a person of any race or origin regarded as contemptible, inferior or ignorant. So to have a educated, young black man attending an institution of higher learning, ironically at an HBCU, to call himself, as well as his black peers n\*\*\*\*s, whether he considers them a "house n\*\*\*\*" or a "field n\*\*\*\*" is disheartening and ignorant.

I find your perspective to be hilarious because as you stand on your soap box preaching how much you are down for the cause and want to rebel against "the establishment" you ignorantly only add fuel to the fire. Do you know who Willie Lynch is? Have you heard of The Willie Lynch Letter? Although they say you should never assume, I think it would be safe to say from reading your perspective you have not.

Mr. Brown, you single-handedly represent evidence that his teachings are still alive, surviving over 300 years later. If this is a little over your head, Google him.

I 100 percent agree with LaRita Williams in her rebuttal to your perspective that we as a people need to remember the origins of the word n\*\*\*\* and to stop using it so freely and as an alternative for a word of endearment. As she wrote

so well, "there was no love when master said it."

You say that a "house n\*\*\*\* is so caught up in chasing equality that they overlook their own people's potential supremacy. A house n\*\*\*\* has forgotten the four girls in Birmingham. A house n\*\*\*\* neglected the events in Jena."

If I am not mistaken, education, in the words of many black leaders, is the great equalizer; it is why you chose to come to college. You chose to attend college to better prepare or, dare I say, equip yourself to operate in "the establishment." You speak, write, live and thrive as the very "house n\*\*\*\*" you so arrogantly denounce.

To so ridiculously say that a "house n\*\*\*\*" is so caught up in chasing equality and has forgotten the four little girls in Birmingham illustrates that you clearly have forgotten from whence you came, Mr. Brown. Harriet Tubman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks and thousands of countless, nameless individuals all fought for equal civil and human rights all in hopes of obtaining equality. So would you dare call these selfless and heroic individuals who persistently chased equality house n\*\*\*\*s? These people afforded you the opportunity to be able to read and write; despite your writing of such reckless statements.

I can also quote W.E.B. DuBois; however, I can interpret what he is saying a little better than you can. He says that "the Negro race, like all races, is going to be saved by its excep-

tional men. The problem of education, then, among Negroes must first of all deal with the Talented Tenth; it is the problem of developing the Best of this race that they may guide the Mass away from the contamination and death of the Worst, in their own and other races."

Unfortunately you would be the "Worst" in this statement. The one who would lead n\*\*\*\*s everywhere to contamination and death as a member from within with your idol and dangerous philosophies.

Although you would consider me a house n\*\*\*\*, I did not neglect the events in Jena. Since you are so knowledgeable on the situation, correct me if I am wrong, but didn't Robert Bailey of the Jena Six have several pictures of himself posted on his Myspace page flaunting numerous \$100 bills? [That was] money that was donated to his family, some of which came from myself and even other so-called house n\*\*\*\*s. Instead of worrying about who is a house n\*\*\*\*, you should be more concerned about such individuals and media outlets that continually depict black people as n\*\*\*\*s in the public eye, instead of contributing to it.

For the sake of the space allotted for my written argument, I would like to leave you with a question. Would you consider Robert Bailey a field n\*\*\*\*?

-Ronald Tolson, Jr., senior public relations major

## Daily Sudoku

Directions:

Each row, each column and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

		2	1		7		6	
	7	1						4
8		6	9	4		3	5	
		5			8		3	
6		9				4		5
	1		5			6		
	9	8			7	1	5	2
7							1	4
1		3			5	2		

## Want to write for The Hilltop?

Come grab a story at our next budget meeting.

Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Howard Plaza Towers West P-Level

# THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to the editor or perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on to hilltop@thehilltoponline.com.

Any inquiries for advertisements should be sent directly to The Hilltop Business Office at campusadvertising@thehilltoponline.com

**THE HILLTOP**

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Now in its 85th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.



The New Jersey Club Presents:  
**BACK IN THE BUILDING**  
NJ Club Week  
11.15.09 - 11.21.09

Atlantic City Showdown: Game Night  
Tuesday 11/17/09, 6:30pm Blackburn Game Room (\$5 chips = \$1)

"Reduced Lunch":  
Cafe Night  
Wednesday 11/18/09, 4:30pm - 7pm Blackburn Cafeteria

The Chicken Shack:  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
Thursday 11/19/09, 6:30pm Meridian Hill Lounge

Ride Dat Wave:  
Party  
Friday 11/20/09, Dislocated Location  
Greatest Love of All: Homeless Walk  
Saturday 11/21/09, Gam Chamber Auditorium

**HUSA Presents...**

**Love.Live.Life Concert**

**Monday, November 30, 2009**

**@ 7pm Blackburn Ballroom**

**Tickets \$5 - sold in Cramton Auditorium**

**All proceeds go to "Keep A Child Alive"**

**Performances by:**

**-Rampage**

**-Tenn Stacks**

**-Messiah**

**And MANY more... Text HUSA49 to 41411 for more info.**

Howard University Campus Pals would like to cordially invite you to ...

Pals are So Futuristic

November 15 - 20, 2009

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Back to the Future: Panel discussion with Congressional Staffers

Hilltop Lounge  
7pm

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Walking on the Moon: Health Program

Blackburn Room 148/150

7pm

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ain't I Futuristic: Interest Meeting

7pm

Friday, November 20, 2009

Venus vs. Mars: Talent Show

Hilltop Lounge

7pm

Saturday, November 21, 2009

Meet & Greet

UNOs at Union Station

1-5pm.

And

Community Service TBA

The Therrell Smith School of Dance is currently seeking a part-time dance intern to assist reknown dance instructor Ms. Therrell Smith during Saturday dance classes. For more information or to apply, email [Info@tsschoolofdance.com](mailto:Info@tsschoolofdance.com).

**UGSA**

**SKI TRIP**

**EARLY BIRD**

**SPECIAL**

**EXTENDED**

**TO**

**WEDNESDAY**

**NOV 18 GET**

**YOUR**

**TICKET**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE...**

**PRESENTS**

**"SOUL FOOD"**

**November 18, 2009**

**6:45pm**

**Andrew**

**Rhokin Chapel**

**"Be spiritually Edified"**

**HU Florida Club**

**3rd General**

**Body Meeting**

**Tuesday,**

**November 17th**

**@ 7:30 pm**

**Douglass Hall**

**See you there!**

**Xi Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. & Alpha Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Presents:**

**1st Annual KAPPA KARES: "Diamonds and Doves Holiday Food Drive"**

**November 17-19, 12-3p.m., 19th, 2-4p.m. Blackburn Lower Level \*ALL CANNED & BOXED FOOD WELCOMED\***

**"Phi Sigma Pi Presents: Tripod Week"**

Think you know your best friend? Ms. Reeves and Ms. Baker & Mr. and Miss Howard challenge you and your friend in the Best Friends Gameshow for the grand prize! Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, Inc. presents "The Newly-Friends" testing your knowledge of one another! Tuesday Nov. 17th @ 5:30 in the Blackburn Digital Auditorium.

**\$2600/4br/2ba 4333 Kansas Ave. NW Located within walking distance to Georgia Ave metro, Yes market, Safeway, restaurants and shops. Amenities include laundry facility, storage unit, off street parking, 10i high ceilings, huge rooms and closets and central air and heat free of charge. Call Ben 202 997 3211/bfhaber@gmail.com**

GSA presents: Credit and Entrepreneurship Workshop open to all! Please come out and learn more! November 17th 7p School of Business Room 216 @ 7pm. visit [www.hugsa.info](http://www.hugsa.info)

Disturbed by the limited possibilities in your field? The Hospitality industry is looking for you...

Marketing, finance, info systems, accounting, etc.

Hospitality Awareness Day

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

School of Business Room 417

5:30-7:30PM

Special guests: Tina Sampson, VP of Sales

Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center

And

Andre Wells, Owner

Events by Andre Wells

**HUSA Presents...**

**"Holiday Tree Lighting"**

**Friday, November 20, 2009**

**4:30pm**

**Rooftop of UGI**

**Students and those in the**

**community are**

**ALL invited.**

**You will not want to miss the**

**lighting of HU**

**Holiday Tree!**

**Text HUSA49 to 41411 for more information.**

**ATTENTION! ATTENTION!**

IF YOU ARE A CREATIVE PERSON WITH A PASSION FOR SPECIAL EVENTS THIS IS THE JOB FOR YOU. THE HOMECOMING POLICY BOARD IS CURRENTLY SEEKING QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR CHAIR AND TREASURER. BOTH CANDIDATES MUST POSSESS THE FOLLOWING:

1. STRONG LEADERSHIP SKILLS
2. STRONG ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS
3. INNOVATION
4. EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS
5. SOUND JUDGMENT
6. WORKS WELL WITH OTHERS
7. JUNIOR STATUS OR SIXTY CREDIT HOURS AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY
8. CURRENTLY REGISTERED AND VALIDATED. FULL TIME, AND POSSES A 2.7 GPA AT THE TIME OF THEIR SELECTION AND REMAIN REGISTERED AND MAINTAIN A 2.7 GPA STANDING THROUGHOUT THEIR TERM OF OFFICE.
9. A 5-7 PAGE TYPED PROPOSAL WITH A CLEAR VISION OF YOUR PROJECTED FOCUS OF THE 2010 HOMECOMING PROGRAM.
10. DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30, 2009 ON OR BEFORE 10:00 A.M.